



## Sub-Mission on Agroforestry Scheme

### Why in News

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Central Silk Board** on a **convergence model** for the implementation of **Agroforestry in the silk sector**. It is a part of the ongoing **Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme**.

- Earlier, the Government of India allocated Rs. 2161.68 crores for three years i.e. 2017-2020 to its [Central Sector Scheme 'Silk Samagra'](#) for the development of [sericulture](#) in the country.

### Key Points

#### ▪ **Convergence Model:**

##### ◦ **Aim:**

- To **incentivize the farmers to take up sericulture based Agroforestry** models thereby contributing to the Make in India and Make for the World vision of the Prime Minister.

##### ◦ **About:**

- This linkage will add another dimension to agroforestry for **faster returns** to the growers as well as **support the production** of the range of silks that India is famous for.
- The **Central Silk Board (CSB - under the Ministry of Textiles)** will act as a catalyst to promote Agroforestry in the silk sector.

- **CSB** is a statutory body established in the year **1948 by an Act of Parliament**.

- The initiative of formalizing the collaboration in the sericulture sector is especially targeted for augmentation of sericulture host plants e.g. **Mulberry, Asan, Arjuna, Som, Soalu, Kesseru, BadaKesseru, Phanat, etc.** to be cultivated both as block plantations and border or peripheral plantations on farmlands.

##### ◦ **Significance:**

- Planting sericulture based tree species on the farm bunds and rearing silkworms will help in **creating additional income opportunities for farmers besides their regular source of income** from agriculture activities.
- It will contribute to the Prime Minister's vision of [doubling farmers' income by 2022](#).

#### ▪ **Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme:**

##### ◦ **About:**

- The **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW)** has been implementing the SMAF since **2016-17** as part of the recommendation of the **National Agroforestry Policy 2014**.

- India was the **first country to have such a comprehensive policy** which was launched at the World Agroforestry Congress held in Delhi in February 2014.
- The scheme is implemented **only in the states having liberalized transit regulations for the transport of timber** and will be extended to other states as and when such relaxations are notified by them.
  - At present, the scheme is being implemented in **20 States and 2 UTs**.
- The scheme **promotes endemic species or tree species that come with medicinal value**.
  - Exotic species are not promoted by the scheme.
- **Aim:**
  - To encourage farmers to **plant multi-purpose trees** together **with the agriculture crops for climate resilience and an additional source of income** to the farmers, as well as **enhanced feedstock** to inter alia wood-based and herbal industry.
- **Funding:**
  - It is operational under the funding pattern **60:40 (Central government: State government)** basis for all states except for 8 states of North East Region, the hilly states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand where it would be **90:10** fund sharing. For Union Territories (UTs), the assistance will be 100% from the Central government.
- **Beneficiaries:**
  - Farmers would be supported financially to the extent of **50% of the actual cost of the interventions** (limited to 50% of the estimated cost as indicated in the Cost norms) for the respective interventions.
  - **Farmers groups/Cooperatives** and [Farmer Producers Organization \(FPO\)](#) can also avail the benefit of the programme but the assistance can be accessed as per norms and provisions applicable to the individual farmers.
  - At least **50% of the allocation is to be utilized for small, marginal farmers** of which at least **30% should be women beneficiaries/farmers**. Further **16% & 8%** of the total allocation or in proportion of SC/ST population in the district will be utilized for **Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)** respectively.
  - Farmers **must have a [soil health card](#)** to get the benefit under the programme.
- **Other Initiatives for Farmers:**
  - [National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture](#).
  - [National Food Security Mission](#).
  - [Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana \(RKVY\)](#).
  - [Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture](#).
  - [Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana \(PMKSY\)](#).
  - [Nutrient Based Subsidy \(NBS\) Programme](#).
  - [Rashtriya Gokul Mission](#).
  - [Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana](#).
  - [Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana](#).

## Agroforestry

- Agroforestry is defined as a **land use system which integrates trees and shrubs on farmlands and rural landscapes to enhance productivity, profitability, diversity and ecosystem sustainability**.
- It is a dynamic, ecologically based, natural resource management system that, through **integration of woody perennials on farms and in the agricultural landscape, diversifies**

**and sustains production and builds social institutions.**

## **Sericulture**

### **▪ About:**

- It is an **agro-based industry**.
- It involves **rearing of silkworms** for the production of raw silk, which is the yarn obtained out of cocoons spun by certain species of insects.
- The **major activities** of sericulture consist of **food-plant cultivation** to feed the silkworms which spin silk cocoons and **reeling the cocoons for unwinding the silk filament** for value-added benefits such as processing and weaving.
- Domesticated silkworms (*Bombyx mori*) are raised for the purpose of sericulture.

### **▪ Silk Production in India:**

- There are **five major types of silk** of commercial importance, obtained from different species of silkworms.
  - These are **Mulberry, Oak Tasar & Tropical Tasar, Muga and Eri**.
- Except for mulberry, other **non-mulberry varieties of silks are wild silks, known as vanya silks**.
- India has the unique distinction of producing all these commercial varieties of silk.
- **South India is the leading silk producing area of the country** and is also known for its famous silk weaving enclaves like Kancheepuram, Dharmavaram, Arni, etc.

**[Source: PIB](#)**

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